



Caloosahatchee Community Forums

December 2, 2014





AGENDA OVERVIEW

General Overview

Topic 1: Regional Priority projects

- Review Implementing Agencies' initial prioritization
- Opportunity for small group discussions and input

Topic 2: Local Projects in a Regional Framework

- Consider strategies for incorporating local projects into a prioritized regional framework

Topic 3: Moving Forward From Here

- Consider next steps to engage implementers and stakeholders around ongoing program and policy issues

Adjourn by 4:15 p.m.



MEETING PROTOCOLS

- Participate actively
- Help us stay on track
 - Focus on agenda items under discussion
 - Allow others to express views and concerns
- Consider focus for today's discussion
 - Project prioritization
 - Projects able to reach final design and construction within specified time period
 - Additional programmatic and policy at end of day





Legislative Update





Process To-Date

- **Visioning Process Assessment**

- Intent: Frame stakeholder interest in CR visioning process
- Takeaway: Strong interest, but linkage to action seen as key
- Result: District moves forward with Science Workshop, project priorities

- **Science Workshop**

- Intent: Assess effectiveness of indicators tracking CR ecosystem
- Takeaway: Indicators largely on target, need for science working group and linking science and management targets and policy

- **Interagency Coordination Dialogue**

- Intent: Prioritize projects to improve water quality and quantity
- Takeaway: Draft priorities being presented today

- **Community Forum**

- Intent: Engage stakeholders in ongoing dialogue
- Takeaway: Broad participation; input to specific regional priorities positive; mixed views on whether sufficient or not

Spring 2013



Ongoing



Regional Projects





Proposed Watershed Projects

Source of Project Information

- **Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan**
- **Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Action Plan**
- **Planned Local Government or Water Control District Projects**
- **Information Provided by Implementing Agency**





Proposed Watershed Projects

Suggestions from August Community Forum

Added Information Relative to Ranking Criteria

- **Project benefits, dry season release availability, expected O&M costs, opportunities for collaboration, land acquisition requirements**

Cost/Benefit Analysis

- **Insufficient information for meaningful analysis**

Source of Nutrient Removal Information

Added several suggested projects



Proposed Watershed Projects

Modifications to Project Tables

Interagency Team reorganized project tables into Regional and Local Projects

Local Projects grouped by type and phase

- **Filtermarsh**
- **Water Storage**
- **Environmental Restoration**
- **Central Sewer Conversion**
- **Stormwater/drainage**

Near-term, Long-term

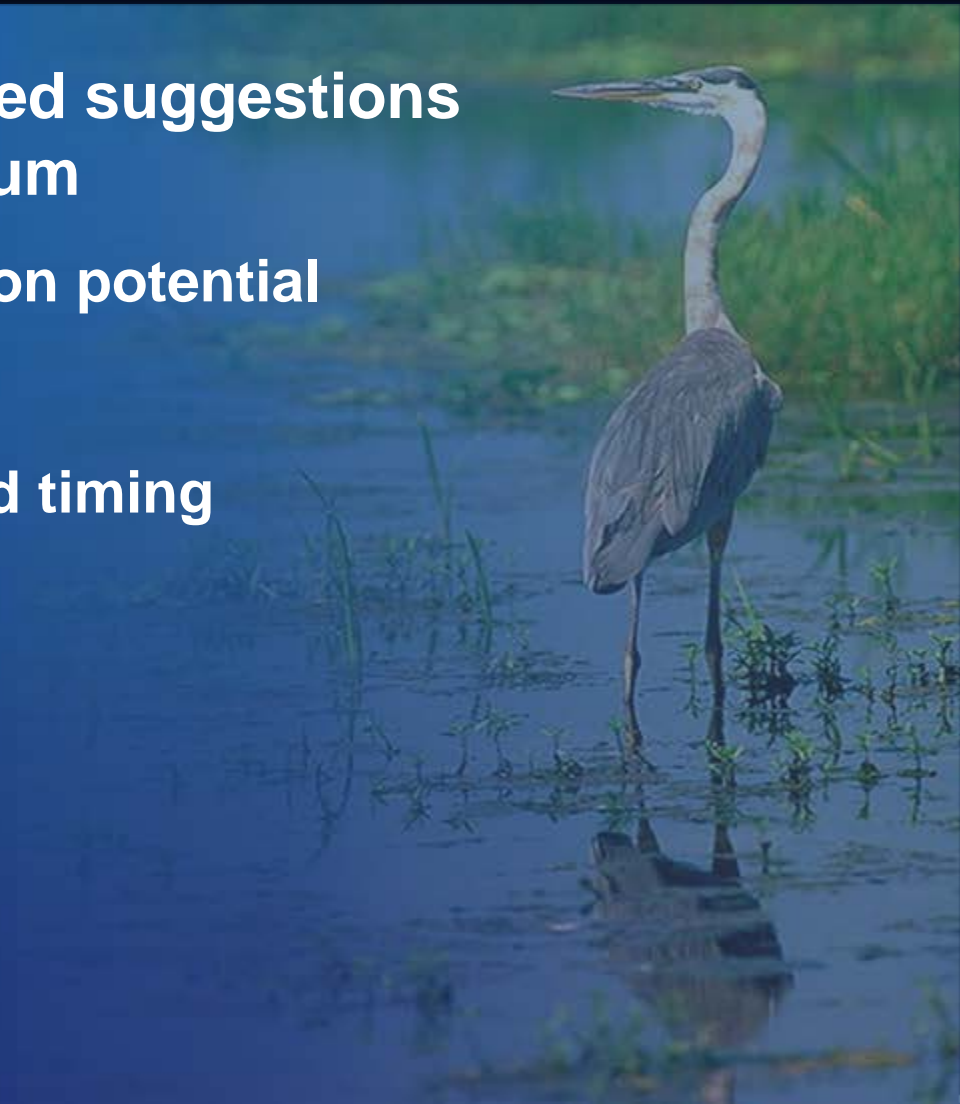




Descriptive Evaluation Criteria

Interagency Team incorporated suggestions from August Community Forum

- Nutrient removal or reduction potential
- Water storage potential
- Operational distribution and timing
- Linkages to other projects
- Implementation readiness
- Regional impact
- Multiple benefits
- Sustainability





Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Immediate

Regional Projects organized into four categories

Immediate

- Highest priority, ready to implement

Near-Term

- Second tier priorities needing additional design work

Conceptual

- Needing further development or additional feasibility analysis

Restoration

- Important, but different than other regional projects



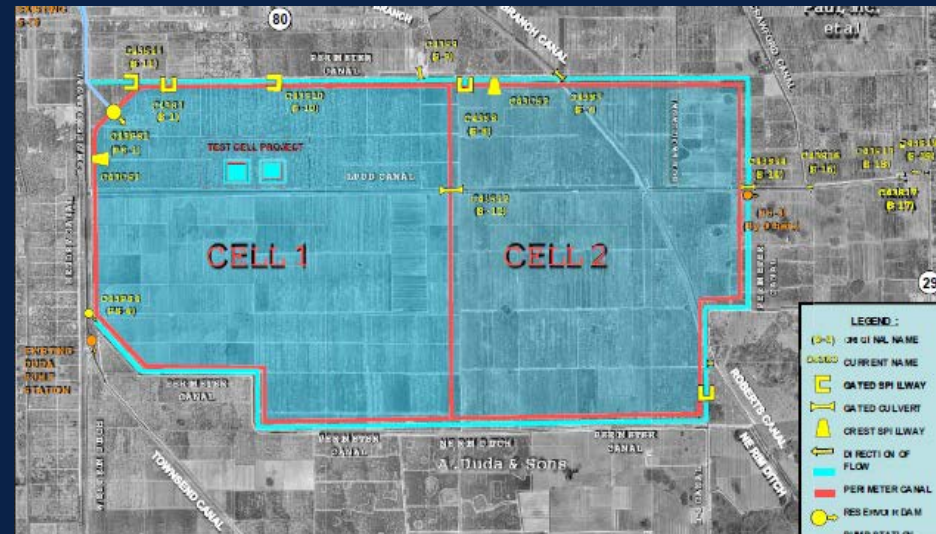


Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Immediate

C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir

- Improve the salinity balance in downstream estuary
 - Attenuate peak flows during the wet season
 - Provide essential flows during the dry season
-
- Capacity - 170,000 acre-feet
 - Reservoir design - Complete
 - Authorization - June 2014
 - Construction - Pending congressional appropriation
 - Remaining cost - \$452,100,000





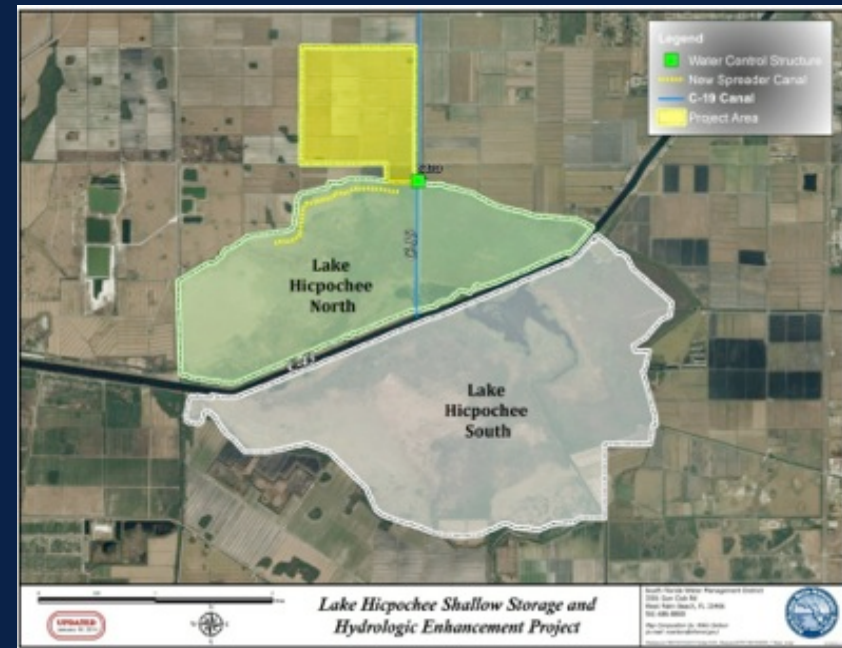
Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Immediate

Lake Hicopchee North Hydrologic Enhancement

Provide shallow water storage and hydrologic enhancement to northwest portions of the lake to benefit the Caloosahatchee

- 640 acres acquired for 2-3 feet of storage
- Construction to begin by June 2015 – funded
- Linkage with Nicodemus Slough project
- Option for additional 2,454 acres - \$16,600,000





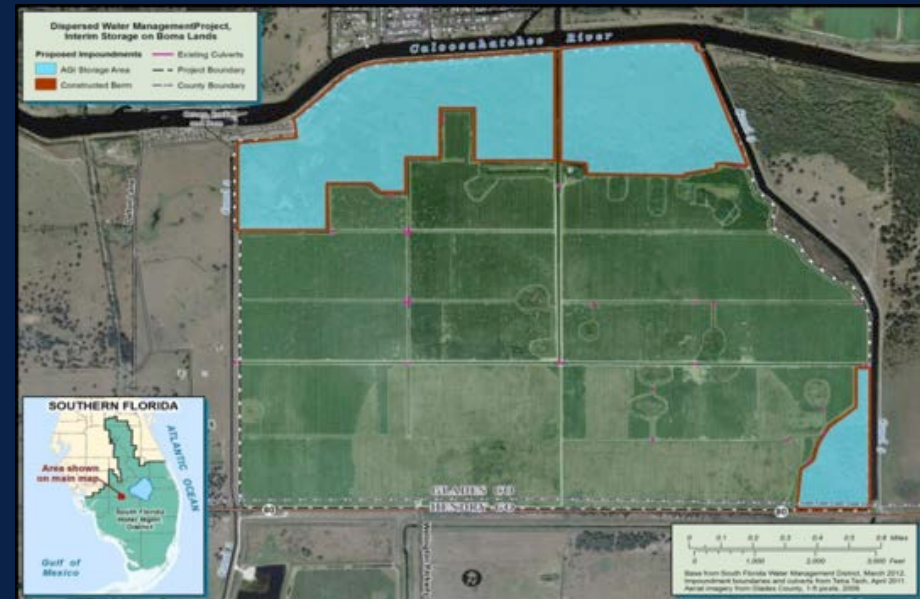
Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Immediate

C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Demonstration aka BOMA Property

Investigate processes for reducing nutrients, particularly nitrogen, from the watershed

- Conceptual design for a testing facility was completed in 2012
- Land acquired in partnership with Lee County
- Estimated Cost - \$8,000,000
- Bioassay and mesocosms study to begin 2015





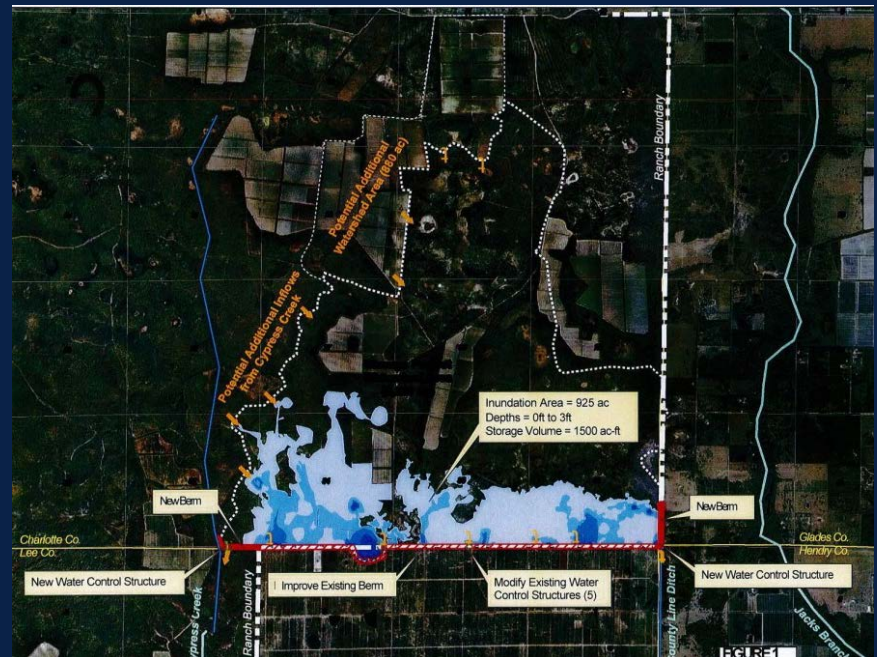
Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Immediate

Babcock Ranch Preserve Water Storage

Provide shallow water storage to reduce stormwater runoff to Caloosahatchee

- 1,500 acre-feet of storage
- Land in public ownership
- Design funded by FDACS and currently underway
- Final design and construction cost estimate - \$1,200,000
- Possible linkage with Jacks Branch/County Line Ditch project





Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Near-Term

West Caloosahatchee Water Quality Treatment Area (C-43 Reservoir Site)

- Water Quality feature associated with reservoir
- 1,500 acres in public ownership
- Needs conceptual design study

Lake Hicpochee South Project

- Conceptual design report completed
- Limited storage
- Possible re-evaluation



Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Conceptual

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative

East Caloosahatchee Storage Project

Caloosahatchee Storage-Additional Project

C-43 Distributed Reservoirs Project

Caloosahatchee Ecoscape WQ Treatment Project

Recyclable Water Containment Areas Project

Lee-Charlotte Co. Border Hydrologic Improvement

ASR on Public Lands

Carlos Waterway Conveyance



Proposed Watershed Projects

Regional Projects: Restoration

Tape Grass Plantings Upstream of S-79

Oxbow Restoration

Tape Grass Plantings Below S-79





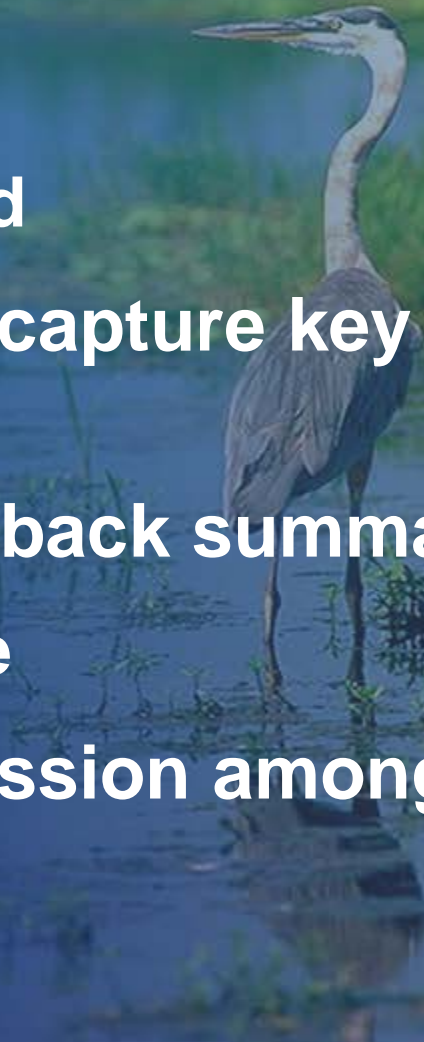
Questions?





SMALL GROUP PROCESS: Regional Priority Projects

- 40 minutes to discuss at tables
 - Maps and project listings provided
- Each table to identify recorder to capture key themes
- Save 5 minutes to confirm report-back summary
 - Areas of convergence, divergence
- 20 minutes report back and discussion among full group
- Take break, as needed





SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS: Regional Priority Projects

- Are projects appropriately categorized?
Are they appropriately prioritized?
- Are there any key regional projects still missing from the list?





PLENARY DISCUSSIONS: Regional Priority Projects

- **Garnering support for package of regional priorities**
 - What do stakeholders need to do together to build public and political support for implementing priority projects?
 - How can the region strengthen a prioritization process in the coming years?





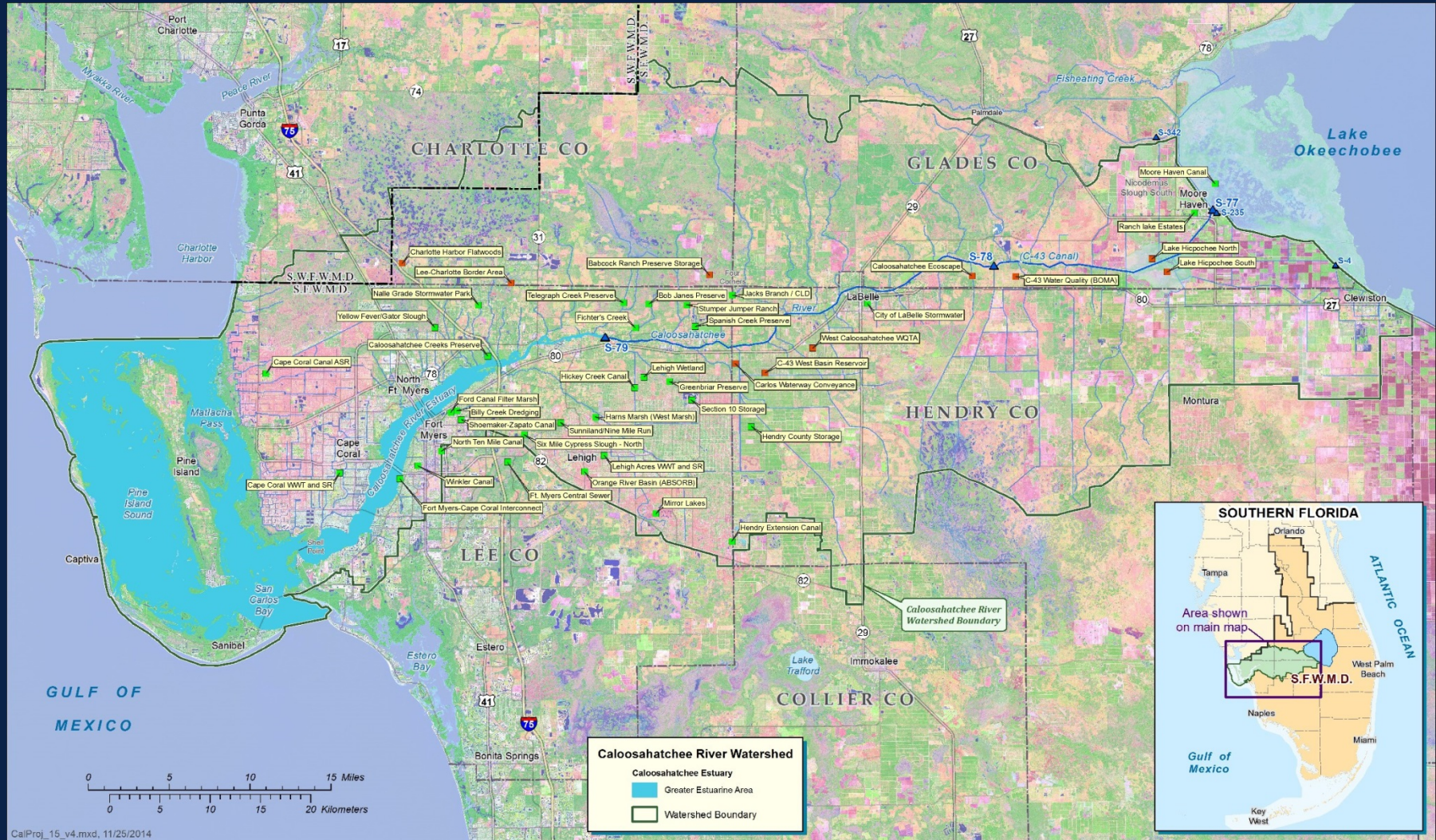
Local Projects





Proposed Watershed Projects

Local Projects





Community Ranked Projects

Interagency Team found it difficult to prioritize among local projects

- **Need additional information and data for cost/benefit analysis**

Projects should target regional priorities within the watershed

Suggested establishment of a community-based ranking structure similar to Issues Team used on east coast





Community Ranked Projects

Community Team would be comprised of local governments, agencies and stakeholder groups

- Solicit local projects annually
- Develop and prioritize project list
- Promote funding and implementation of projects

Is the Community Team concept worth pursuing?





Questions?





PLENARY QUESTIONS: Local Projects

- What more can be done at regional level to support local projects?
- Is there merit and/or interest in developing a structured regional process to prioritize and advocate for funding among local projects? How might we prioritize among projects?





PLENARY QUESTIONS: Local Projects

- Various funding programs exist such as DEP's Florida Forever and the Florida Land Acquisition Trust Fund that fund solely land acquisition
- The recent ballot measure will infuse significant dollars into that fund
- Should the Caloosahatchee River Basin develop a regional, land acquisition strategy should significant funds be available in the future?
 - What are possible priority acquisitions?





FUTURE DIALOGUES

Moving Forward From Here

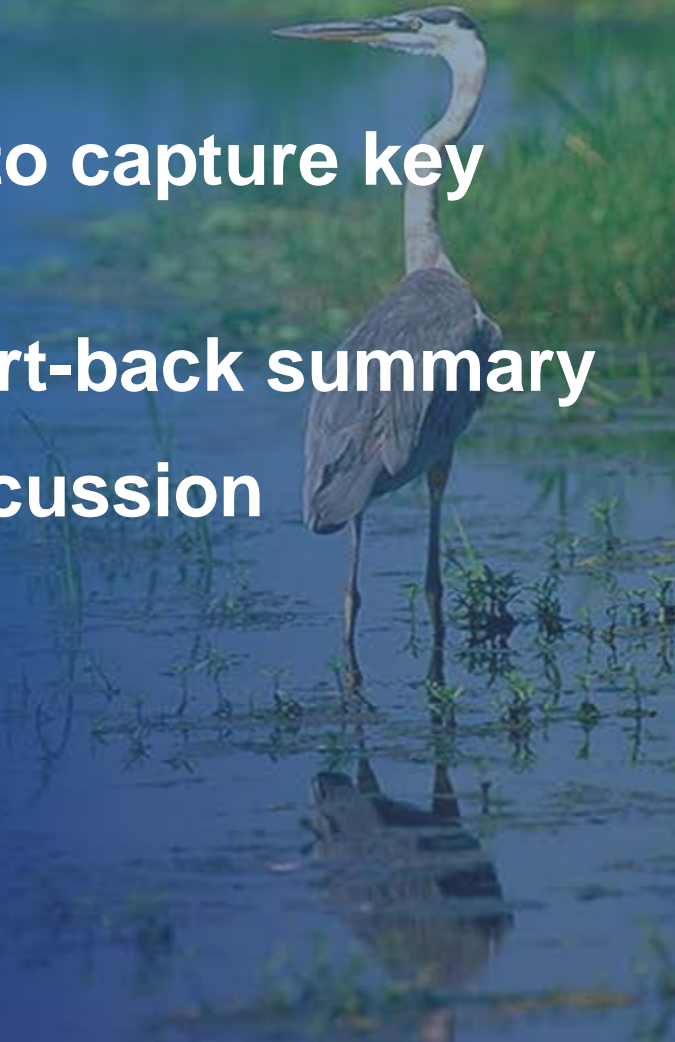
- **Recognize stakeholder interest in broadening dialogue beyond project prioritization**
 - Heard in visioning interviews, Science Workshop, Community Forum #1
- **Challenge: What are constructive next steps to engage ongoing program and policy issues related to water quality and quantity improvements in the Caloosahatchee River watershed?**





SMALL GROUP PROCESS: Moving Forward From Here

- 30 minutes to discuss at tables
- Each table to identify recorder to capture key themes
- Save 5 minutes to confirm report-back summary
- 15 minutes report back and discussion
- Take break, as needed





SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Moving Forward From Here

- In 2015, what regional conversations about which programs (e.g., dispersed water, land acquisition, agricultural and urban BMPs) could help advance relationship building, and program effectiveness and efficiency? How might these conversations be structured to yield constructive dialogue and productive outcomes (e.g., conversation participants, timeframe, focus)?
- In 2015, what regional conversations about policy issues could help advance relationship building, and program effectiveness and efficiency? How might these conversations be structured to yield constructive dialogue and productive outcomes (e.g., conversation participants, timeframe, focus)?
- What should our stakeholder engagement look like in 2015?